Medals to Kargil Soldiers

3386. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers still expecting promised Kargil medals even after two years; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in conferring medals on soldiers who fought the Kargil war from the peaks of Drass, Kargil, Batalik?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Proposal received from Chiefs of Staff Commettee (COSC) "OP Vijay Star" and "OP Vijay Medal" has been processed and approval of the President has been obtained. Further 300 Gallantry awards, 47 Distinguished Service awards and 201 Mention-in-Despatches have been announced and conferred upon the recipients for Kargil Operation.

Privatisation of Defence Production

3387. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to privatise defence production and permit FDI in such strategic sector;

(b) if so, the nature of defence equipment opened up for the private sector;

(c) whether the entire equipment produced in the private sector are to be supplied to Government;

(d) if not, how the private sector is required to market their produce; and

(e) what are the items reserved for public sector in view of their importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (e) The Defence industry is opened for participation by Indian private sector upto 100% of equity, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), component of it being permissible upto 26%, both, being subject to licensing permissions. This includes all types of Defence equipment. No items are now reserved exclusively for the public sector.

All Defence items produced by the private sector will be sold only to the Government or as inputs to the Ordnance Factories/Defence Public Sector Undertakings, except for exports.

Action Against Guilty Official of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited

3388. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 2137 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March. 2000, and state:

(a) the action taken so far against the concerned officers of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.;

(b) whether some union workers are being victimised for writing to CVC;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to redress grievances of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The alleged irregularities referred to in the newsitem and the CBI note against the officials of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited have been examined in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission. As no malafide was established, the matter has been closed.

(b) No union worker has been victimised for writing to CVC.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are various fora in Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. as well as in the Department of Defence Production & Supplies for the redressal of grievances of workers.

Ammunition Storage System

3389. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army authorities had sent a team of experts to England and Germany to study ammunition storage system in advanced European countries;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the team;

(c) whether Government have not implemented the recommendations;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.